

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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Solution Sought For U. S. Farm Problem

Despite Progress of Recent Years, Surplus of Many Crops Remains over Market

BASIC ILLS ARE ANALYZED

American Agriculture Has Not Recovered from Expansion Made During World War Years

For nearly two decades, the United States has been confronted by what is commonly referred to as the farm problem. Thousands of books have been written on it. Dozens of plans have been proposed in Congress for curing the farmer's ills, and many of them have actually been tried. Since the beginning of the Roosevelt administration, the government has spent several billion dollars trying to put American agriculture on a prosperous basis. During the year which ends next June 30, the cost of helping the farmers will be twice as much as that of running the entire federal government before the entrance of the United States into the World War. And yet the farm problem has not been solved. What, precisely, is the nature of the difficulties confronting the American farmer?

Fundamental Difficulties

Certain of the difficulties of American agriculture are discussed on page 6 of this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. During the period following the Civil War, agriculture expanded rapidly. Far from being the small economic unit of early times, the American farm became a business enterprise. More and more land was opened to cultivation and more and more farmers turned their attention to the cultivation of one or two crops to be sold in the markets of the world. The United States became the greatest agricultural nation in the world. It leads the world in the production of corn, cotton, and dairy products. It ranks second or third in the production of wheat, meat, sugar, and tobacco. In the production of these great staple crops, the American farmer is dependent for his prosperity upon conditions existing elsewhere in the world, for a large part of his produce must be sold abroad.

Even before the World War, the American farmer knew good years and bad years. The high prices of one year would be followed by low prices the next, with the result that the farmer was hard put to it to pay the interest on his mortgage, the taxes on his land, and the installments on his machinery. There was a farm problem even in the seventies and eighties and nineties of the last century. But invariably good times returned to the farmer, so that he was not in a state of permanent depression.

Many of the present woes of the farmer are directly traceable to the World War. During the war years, American agriculture boomed as it had never boomed before. America became the granary for the rest of the world. Not only did we have to produce our normal requirements of foodstuffs and raw materials and to meet the normal export needs, but we had to produce agricultural goods for the rest of the world because the normal production was curtailed as a result of the war. Prices boomed and the American farmer prospered. To take advantage of the boom times, new lands were opened, production was stepped up, and everything was bright.

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MADRID IN RECONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction Is Dominant In Spain

Nation Repairs Damage Caused by Two and One-half Years of Costly Civil War

VICTORS NOT IN AGREEMENT

Falangists and Conservatives Have Different Ideas of What New Spain Should Be Like

Almost a year has passed since that eventful last Monday in March 1939, when Madrid finally surrendered to the Spanish insurgent army of Generalissimo Francisco Franco, and the two-and-a-half-year Spanish civil war came to a weary end. Since then the spotlight of world interest has shifted to other quarters while the 25,000,000 people of Spain have turned to pick up the threads of their former lives where they had been dropped when the war began. The fresh wounds caused by the war have been closed. The last of the war dead—estimated as having been between 700,000 and 1,000,000 people—have been decently buried, debris has been cleared from the main streets, broken walls have been patched, twisted car tracks put back in place, and important bridges, falling crazily into rivers, have been, or are being, repaired.

The Deepest Scars

But the deepest scars left by the war have been indelibly stamped on Spain. One sees these scars among women in mourning, in crippled soldiers, and among young people whose faces have become prematurely old and hard. They are to be seen in ruined churches and citadels, and in tumbled heaps of masonry where dry grass has already grown between the cracks. They are to be seen in the poverty of the land and its people. There is a shortage of butter, eggs, meat, milk, olive oil, and wheat. There is a shortage of clothing, machinery, tools, railway rolling stock, fuel, manufactured goods, and capital.

Although not much is known outside Spain concerning the nature and extent of the punishment meted out to the defeated loyalists, the worst of the reprisals seem to be over. The mass executions which extended without letup from April into August seem to have dwindled away to less than one shooting a day, according to reports. The military courts have been replaced with milder civil courts. Prisoners may no longer be jailed for more than one month without trial, and those to whom harsh sentences have been given have the right to appeal to higher courts. A general amnesty decree has freed all those who received sentences of less than six years, but how many of the some 600,000 loyalists who were either in prison or working in forced labor battalions last October have been affected by this decree, is uncertain.

The feeling between the victorious Franco supporters and the vanquished loyalists need not be described. It is somewhat hard on both sides, but it does not seem to be so bitter as some expected. The common people of Spain were probably never filled with hatred for "the enemy" to the extent that their leaders wished. Foreign developments have also left their mark—particularly the cooperation between Russia and Germany, which countries supported opposite sides in the Spanish war. Insurgent officers who drank toasts to German aviators in the common fight against

(Concluded on page 3)

Leadership and Democracy

By WALTER E. MYER

How many leaders are there in your school? How many are really influential? When some movement among the students gets under way, or some school enterprise is to be supported, do a large number of students take part in the work, or is the lead taken by a few, and are the rest of the students satisfied to follow or to take no part at all in the work? And what about your town? Who really runs it? Do hundreds or thousands of people engage actively in planning for the community, in laying out a program for it, and in seeing that the program is followed? Are there hundreds or thousands of people who work actively at selecting candidates and at getting them appointed or elected? Is that the way things are done in your town, or are there a few men who ordinarily make the decisions and actually get things done? Does the rest of the population merely follow? Raymond Clapper, a seasoned political observer, made the statement some time ago in his syndicated newspaper column that in most communities a handful of men are responsible for practically everything that is done. He said:

"Civic spirit is a thing much admired and much talked about, but as a reporter knocks around from one community to another, he becomes increasingly impressed with the fact that civic spirit—so-called—proves to be the result of a handful of energetic personalities, usually business leaders. In localities where there does not happen to be such a little group of aggressive, public-spirited, dominant personalities, you don't have much civic spirit. The difference can be felt instantly. Many communities are wide open with opportunity for public-minded businessmen who are willing to ease up a little in their money-making and pitch in on civic enterprises. . . .

"In any live and pushing community of medium size, you will usually find a gang of businessmen who are responsible for the drive. A banker or two, a department store operator, the local utilities manager, perhaps—not more than five or six persons usually. . . . I was talking with a person in one of these communities about it. 'Sure,' he said, 'about three men run this town. They run it just about as they want to run it. But they do a good job. . . . Call it an oligarchy, if you insist. But somebody has to do these things.'"

Does Mr. Clapper's description fit your community? If so, are you satisfied with the situation? If we believe in democracy, should we let a few people run our town? Can we be as certain that they will run it in the interests of all the people as if a larger number took active part in making the plans and executing them? Is one doing his full duty as a citizen in a democratic nation when he is content to let a handful of men run his town? These are questions worth thinking about.



A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL OF 40 YEARS AGO
(Edward Lamson Henry's painting "Country School." From the Garvan Collection. Yale.)

- Straight Thinking -

XXI. Propaganda Technique

WE have all seen in the advertising sections of magazines and on billboards, the picture of a colored mammy in a kitchen with an abundance of appetizing food. This picture advertises a certain brand of pancake flour. It is not an objectionable advertisement. It is as good as most of them, and better than many. But it contains no argument. The trick consists of this: We associate the old colored mammies with good cooking, and when we see a picture in connection with a certain food product we are likely unconsciously to be favorably inclined toward the product.

Another similar advertisement shows the picture of an old southern manor house which we associate with pleasant living. This picture is used to advertise a certain brand of coffee. It has nothing to do with the product, but when we see the coffee associated with the picture which brings up pleasant ideas or memories to us, we are likely to be favorably inclined toward the coffee.

We could name hundreds of illustrations from the advertising pages. There is the cigarette ad, for example, portraying a beautiful girl. This is supposed to cause those who see the picture to think pleasantly of the cigarette and to purchase that particular brand.

But even more important to us is the use of a similar trick in politics. Very soon candidates for the presidency will be brought prominently before the public. Each candidate will be pictured in a family circle. He will be shown playing with children. These pictures will have nothing to do with his qualifications for the presidency. But we all believe in happy family life and we are inclined to think agreeably of a person who plays with children. And we are likely, when we see these pictures, to say to ourselves: "This is just a plain, ordinary man with the same impulses that the rest of us have." We are likely to think better of him because we have seen pictures of him in the family circle. We pay no attention to the fact that his manager had him pose for these pictures in order to make us feel as we do and eventually to vote for him.

There is not a trick used by advertisers of cigarettes or coffee or automobiles or any other product that will not be used in the presidential campaign in an effort to "sell" the candidates to the public. Be on the lookout for these tricks. There may be nothing so very bad about them, except that they throw us off the track and keep us from thinking of the actual qualifications of the candidates to fill the offices for which they are running.

Such tricks, of course, are not new in American history. A good illustration is to be found in the "hard cider" campaign

of 1840—just 100 years ago. The supporters of William Henry Harrison made much of the supposed fact that he was born in a log cabin and that, like many other frontiersmen, he liked hard cider. They carried banners with pictures of log cabins, and there was constant reference to the hard cider candidate. The idea was, of course, that the voters would look upon General Harrison as a "plain man of the people" like themselves and that they would be favorably inclined toward him. This trick was very effective in the campaign.

We do not mean to say that one should not be interested in the personalities of candidates. The voter would do well to find out all that he can about the character and the personal qualities of each candidate for office. He should not, however, be "taken in" by tricks such as those which have been described. If you can find evidence that a candidate is friendly, sympathetic, honest, or public-spirited, you have good reason to look favorably upon his candidacy. But examine into the nature of the evidence before making up your minds about his qualifications.

What the Magazines Say

WITH the war in Europe overshadowing the news and articles published in nearly all our newspapers and magazines, the editors of *Survey Graphic*, in contrast, have turned to the home front to gather material for a special February issue with the title: "Homes: Front Line Defense of American Life." This is the third in a "Calling America" series that this publication has sponsored. A year ago they put out their first, "Calling America: The Challenge to Democracy Reaches Over Here." In October they issued "Schools: The Challenge of Democracy to Education."

For their "Homes" issue, the *Survey* editors put the magazine in the hands of Albert Mayer, a nationally known city planner and architect. Under his guidance the theme was worked out and articles were gathered from



experts in all the interrelated fields of housing. Architects, government housing experts, research engineers, antitrust lawyers, writers, tax experts, sociologists, and agricultural experts—are all represented by excellent articles. Mr. Mayer's finished product is neither a completely dismal exposé of the existing evils of housing with gloomy pictures of the decay that follows on the heels of such housing, nor is it an idealistic projection into a perfect future. Instead Mr. Mayer and his

Miss Chase Gives Experiences As Teacher in "A Goodly Fellowship"

MARY ELLEN CHASE is a writer of distinction. Her novels, "Mary Peters," "Silas Crockett," and "Dawn in Lyonesse," have been widely read and praised by the discriminating. As an essayist, she can hold her own with those in the top ranks. As a lecturer, she has held audiences by her brilliance, wit, and charm. But it is probably as a teacher that Miss Chase would best like to be known, and it is about her career as a teacher that her latest book deals—"A Goodly Fellowship" (New York: Macmillan. \$2.50).

Miss Chase's latest book will appeal not only to teachers but to all who enjoy good writing, a delightful sense of humor, and the story of an eventful life. Miss Chase's life as a teacher has never been dull. From its beginning as a 19-year-old girl trying to subdue the bullies of a rural Maine school to a professorship of English in Smith College, it has been a rich and satisfying life.

Teaching came as no second choice to Mary Ellen Chase. Her background and training seemed to destine her for that profession. Her mother, a born teacher, taught her the beauty of words and the rhythm of poetry while performing the household duties. Her father recited Greek verse as he came downstairs in the morning. He was determined that she should have the experience of teaching in a rural school either before entering college or before starting the last two years. It was this determination which brought Miss Chase to her first teaching job:

"It was on a cold, bleak, foggy Monday morning in April 1906 that my father deposited me, bag and baggage, on the steps of the Buck's Harbor schoolhouse and left me to sink or swim, survive or perish. I have often wondered since, whether, as he drove away, the milk of human pity had any place within his stern frame. If there, it was not in any way apparent. His good-bye was brief, although he did present me with a parting gift with injunctions to use it if necessary. This gift proved to be a stout razor strop; and without its moral as well as physical support I should have given up teaching for good and all one-half hour after I had begun it.

"My first morning in my first school was dedicated both to the theory and the practice of the survival of the fittest. The spring was a late one, and certain boys of 16 or older, who otherwise might have been at sea, were at school for a season,

ostensibly to learn, actually to discover of what stuff the new teacher was made. Had my father himself been constructed of less inflexible stuff, could I have been sure of receiving understanding and sympathy at home instead of disappointment and contempt, I should then and there have run for cover, leaving the Buck's Harbor school to whatever fate awaited it.

"But the fear of returning home in defeat was far more terrible than the fear of staying where I was; and I began my teaching experience with an unseemly display of passions which I had never known I possessed—anger and disgust, scorn and fury. I was a veritable Maenad in frenzy as I stormed up and down my narrow aisles. This pathetic pretense of courage, aided by the mad flourishing of the razor strop, brought forth to my amazement as though by magic the expression of respectful fear upon the faces of young giants who could have accomplished my terrified exit either by physical strength or by a like display of temper, and who had come to school with the express purpose of doing so. But no one moved to further insurrection, and although, when the reign of terror to which both forces had contributed had subsided, my quaking knees could hardly support me at my desk. I had no more trouble from discipline through 11 long weeks."

From the rural Maine schools, Miss Chase finished college and went into the world to seek her fortune. Through an



MARY ELLEN CHASE

agency in Chicago, she obtained a position with the Hillside Home School in Wisconsin, one of those truly remarkable schools which develop the whole personality of the pupils. Her next job, at Mrs. Moffat's School for Girls in Chicago, was just the opposite.

Study abroad, a period in Montana to recover from an illness, graduate work and teaching at the University of Minnesota, were the high spots between the beginnings and the period at Smith College. Throughout the book one is aware of the intellectual development and spiritual maturity which take place within the author herself. While "A Goodly Fellowship" is the autobiography of a successful teacher, it is written with all the skill and craftsmanship of a first-rate novelist.

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Spanish Embark Upon Period of Reconstruction After Civil War

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

bolshevism, have become as disillusioned about the Russo-German get-together as have the loyalists who so gladly accepted Russian aid against fascism. Both sides paid cash for what aid they received, and both feel let down. There is no question of fighting over the spoils, in a strictly material sense, for there are no spoils. Loyalists and insurgents live side by side, buy from one another in the market place, ride on the same streetcars, and pass on the same narrow sidewalks. They share the hunger and poverty, and both must work together to repair the damage done by their costly war.

Organizing a Government

The task of rebuilding Spain has fallen, naturally enough, to Franco himself. But first he has had to organize a government to replace the military junta which ruled the insurgent areas during the war. This has not been an easy thing to do, for his supporters are by no means united. On one side are the conservative groups, often called the "traditionalists." They include persons who followed Franco in his uprising against the former government, in 1936, for the purpose of restoring the estab-

The executive power in Spain lies at present in the hands of Franco. He is, first of all, *El Caudillo*, or, in his own words, "the supreme chief, responsible only before God and history." He is also prime minister, commander of the armed forces, and head of the Falange. Occupying these key positions, he is able to steer a cautious middle course between the extreme views of his supporters, now favoring the army, now the traditionalists, and now the Falange. The Falange occupies a favored position in his cabinet inasmuch as it dominates more ministers than any other faction except the army. The most important cabinet member is Ramon Serano Suñer, who is a brother-in-law of Franco, minister of the interior, public order, health and sanitation, and who presides over the Falange party council of 75 members. But the important defense ministry is dominated by men who are not ardent Falangists, and the foreign ministry is headed by Colonel Juan Beigbeder y Atienza, a conservative.

In carrying out his reconstruction program, Franco has leaned considerably in the direction of the Falangist views. He has not attempted to restore the old Spain as much as to build a new Spain. In a number of the devastated areas, for example, the national housing administration is building model villages somewhat on the "Greenbelt" plan, developed with some success in the United States. About 50,000 small houses are said to have been built along these lines near Seville, and another 150,000 are planned. There have been indications also that some of the great estates may be broken up, in spite of the objections of the conservative landowners. So far, there has been no direct expropriation, but the new Spanish land law has been drawn up in such a way as to force some big landowners either to develop their estates to the very maximum of their productive capacity, or to turn them over to the government. It was just such a move on the part of the Republican government, in attempting to expropriate land under the agrarian law of 1932, that aroused the conservatives to violent protests, and later furnished one of the causes of the war.

The Labor Situation

The labor situation in Spain has been somewhat complicated by the fact that thousands of loyalist prisoners are kept at work repairing roads, bridges, public buildings, railway tracks, and doing other repair work vital to the national recovery. Some of the work is also done by free labor. Since all Spanish labor is gathered into one "syndicate" controlled actually by the government, there are no unions, and strikes are prohibited. A new law provides that no laborer shall be paid less than 80 cents a day, but the law is not uniformly enforced, and it cannot be said that Spanish labor enjoys much protection.

Paper plans and labor alone do not,

however, supply Spain with all she needs. Short on foodstuffs, clothing, machinery, tools, and manufactured goods of all kinds, it is Spain's misfortune to lack the capital necessary to purchase these commodities abroad. Each month that has passed has shown the Spaniards more clearly that their future reconstruction plans and prosperity depend to a very large extent upon the amount of trade they are able to carry on with other countries. The militant Falangists are urging closer economic ties with Italy and Germany. Italian-Spanish trade has, in fact, increased, and relations between the governments of these two Mediterranean states have been very cordial during the last year. Many observers believe that these relations will become closer as time goes on, but Italy is not able to lend Spain much economic aid at present. For one thing, the Spanish government owes Italy approximately \$100,000,000 for goods supplied during the civil war, which means that the Spaniards must devise some means of paying that sum before they can look for more aid from Mussolini. For another, Italy is in many ways a natural competitor of Spain, producing many of the products which Spain is anxious to sell. In the case of Germany, a moderate trade is carried on, but it is not increasing and not likely to increase.

Trade with England, France

In seeking markets and an improved trade position, Spain is being virtually forced to turn to her old customers, England and France, a fact which pleases the Spanish conservatives, if not the Falangists. In normal times, Spain sells oranges, olives and olive oil, tomatoes, wines, and cork to England, and similar products to the United States. This trade has been disrupted, of course, by the war. But both the Allies are now anxious to obtain Spanish minerals—iron ore from Bilbao and Spanish Morocco, potash from northern Catalonia, copper and pyrites from southwestern Spain, and mercury from Almadén. From the Allies, Spain is buying wheat, phosphates, barley, rice, and manufactured goods, but in small amounts. Some progress has been made in Allied-Spanish trade negotiations, and it has been rumored (but not confirmed) that the Allies have offered Franco a large loan in return for his good will—an offer which, according to reports, he refused in fear of angering the Falange, and Italy. Whether or not there is any truth to these stories, it is a fact that Spain is being courted by Germany, Italy, and the Allies at this time. Spaniards were able to turn over large profits by trading with both sides, during the World War. While they are unable to do so now, due to the breakdown of their industries caused by the civil war, their position is



REBUILDING
Many buildings in Spain have been wholly or partly demolished by the civil war.

not unfavorable as regards trade and foreign affairs.

During the last year Franco has taken several steps to restore the former position of the Catholic Church in Spain. This position had been reduced considerably in 1931, when the Spanish republican government separated church and state (it declared, that is, that Catholicism was no longer the official religion of Spain), and refused to continue paying an annual grant of \$6,200,000 to defray church salaries and expenses. The following year the government deprived the Jesuits, a Catholic order, of \$30,000,000 worth of property and drove them from Spain. General Franco has restored the confiscated Jesuit properties; he has begun anew the annual grant to the Church, restored Catholicism as the official religion of Spain, and has set aside funds to repair the damage done to Church properties during the civil war.

One of the most interesting questions in Spain today is whether the monarchy will be restored. Many conservatives would favor a restoration, and it is believed that Franco would also. The Falange would oppose it bitterly, but rumors persist that Prince Juan of Asturias, son of former King Alfonso (now in exile), may yet be crowned king of Spain.

Questions and References

1. What is the Falange?
2. In what way do its aims differ from those of the conservatives?
3. Who is Prince Juan of Asturias? Ramón Serano Suñer? El Caudillo?
4. A military junta now rules Spain. True or false?
5. Which of these offices does Franco occupy: minister of war, foreign minister, president, premier?
6. What is the present relationship between church and state in Spain?

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PRONUNCIATIONS: Almadén (ahl-mah-dayn'), Juan Beigbeder y Atienza (hwahn' bayg-bay-dair' ee' ah-tyen'thah), Bilbao (beel-bah'oe), *El Caudillo* (el' kow-deel' yoe—ow as in how), Falange (fah-lahn'hay'), Francisco Franco (frahn-thees'koe frahn'koe), Hirohito (hee-roo-hee'toe), *junta* (hoon'tah), Primo de Rivera (pree'moe day' ree-vay'rah), Ramón Serano Suñer (rah'moan say-rah'noe soon-yair'), Jimmo Tenno (yee-moo' ten-noe'), Tsushima (tsoo-shee'mah'), Mitsumasa Yonai (meet-soo-mah'sah yoe-ni'—i as in ice), Maxime Weygand (mahk'seem' vay'gahn').



CHILDREN OF THE NEW SPAIN
Give the typical fascist salute to the name of The Leader, Francisco Franco.

lished order in old Spain. Some were Catholics who supported him for religious reasons, some owned country estates or suburban real estate, or bank balances, or factories which they wished to protect. All owned something, or belonged to some group which they felt was menaced by the former regime.

On the other side is the Falange, a young, militant political party of strongly fascist leanings, founded in 1933 by the son of Primo de Rivera, the former dictator of Spain. The Falange (which takes its name from the word "phalanx") lent Franco its support at the beginning of the war in return for his promise to acknowledge its 26-point program as his own. The platform of the Falange, which includes the breaking up of Spain's huge landed estates for division among the peasants, the government ownership and operation of railroads and public utilities, and minimum wage guarantees, resembles, in certain respects, the aims of the defeated loyalists. This fact worried the conservative supporters of Franco, at first, but the general belief among them was that the Falange would remain a minor organization, and was not to be feared.

Franco's Position

But the Falange has proved itself to be no minor organization. On the contrary, its membership includes some 500,000 soldiers, or former soldiers, and over three million civilians. It has won over some of the high ranking army generals and has induced Franco to declare it to be the one and only political party in Spain—a position enjoyed by the Fascists in Italy and the Nazis in Germany.



SPAIN OF YESTERDAY
The new Spain which will arise from the ashes of the old will, in many respects, be different. Where new buildings are being put up, modern architectural trends are frequently being followed.



YOUTH HEARS THE PRESIDENT

Delegates to the National Youth Congress, held recently in Washington, gathered on the south lawn of the White House, in a drizzling rain, to hear an address by President Roosevelt.

DOMESTIC

Peace Attempt

Winter is drawing to a close in Europe, and there is uneasiness over the possibility that spring will bring heavy fighting on all fronts. The nations at war are restless over this prospect; many of the leaders feel that if furious battles break out, the conflict will spread to involve all Europe.

The discouraging prospect has also been weighed on this side of the Atlantic, and has led President Roosevelt to make his latest attempt to explore the possibilities for peace. Whether peace can be attained soon may depend on the power and influence which the United States can exert in Europe. The President wants to know how the warring countries feel about the conflict today; how their leaders look upon an attempt to bring about peace before the forces of destruction may be unleashed in a major struggle; and how much cooperation the now neutral countries will offer toward achieving peace.

The President has these questions in mind as he sends Sumner Welles, undersecretary



VISITING FINNS

The "Flying Finn," Paavo Nurmi (left), and his successor, the fleet-footed Taisto Maki, arrive in the United States. They will take part in matches in this country, but their primary purpose will be to arouse sympathy and good will for Finland.

of state, to Europe. Mr. Welles will talk with the leaders of Italy, France, Germany, and Great Britain. He will obtain their reactions toward a settlement, and study conditions in their nations. At the same time, our diplomats in all neutral countries will sound out the sentiments of those governments. So far, the major nations have voiced only hesitant reactions to the moves; they are waiting to receive Welles, and to listen to whatever messages he may be bearing.

Youth Congress

Rain fell steadily on the several thousand delegates to the American Youth Congress who stood recently on the White House grounds to hear President Roosevelt address them from the mansion's south portico. The President reviewed the record of his administration, and pointed to the accomplishments which he said were brought about by the New Deal. Then he took up an issue which one of the local councils of the Ameri-

can Youth Congress has opposed—American loans and aid to Finland.

The President told his listeners that it is "unadulterated twaddle" to oppose our helping Finland on the grounds that such action will draw us into an "imperialistic war" with Russia. He said that 98 per cent of the people in the United States sympathize with Finland, and that the Russian government is as ruthless as any other dictatorship in the world. He added that the Youth Congress should not pass resolutions about subjects which they do not understand. Besides the youth council which opposed our aiding Finland, other affiliates of the Youth Congress have been reluctant to condemn Russia or Communism, although they have consistently attacked dictatorships which exist elsewhere.

During its stay in Washington, the Youth Congress was also addressed by John L. Lewis, Mrs. Roosevelt, and Attorney General Robert Jackson. The delegates represented 62 organizations—youth groups from churches, schools, labor unions, political parties, the YMCA, and the YWCA. Claims for the total membership of the congress vary from 1,500,000 to 4,000,000. While in Washington, the Youth Congress lobbied for the passage of a \$500,000,000 youth bill, as well as for other legislation which their group favors.

Time and again, it has been charged that a minority of radicals in the Youth Congress actually runs the organization; that they have influence out of all proportion to their numbers. Replying to this criticism, the Congress leaders assert that they are giving youth an opportunity to make themselves heard in national affairs, and that it is only democratic to let radicals and Communists voice their opinions along with everyone else.

Accidents in 1939

Last year accidents of all kinds cost the public a total of \$3,300,000,000 in damage and doctor bills. They claimed 93,000 lives, and inflicted injuries on 8,800,000 other persons. However, there was some progress over 1938. As a result of safety measures and education, 800 lives were saved and 100,000 persons were spared from injury.

But 1939 did not produce the traffic safety gains which were achieved in 1938. There were 32,400 traffic deaths in 1938—an improvement over the 39,643 deaths in 1937. This record was set back some in 1939, when 32,600 were killed on the nation's streets and highways. Although the larger cities continued to improve their safety record, there

were more deaths in the rural areas and small towns.

Accidents in homes continued to increase in number slightly—about two per cent more in 1939 than in 1938. Falls caused 17,000 deaths in homes, and fires and burns claimed 5,700 lives. Altogether, 32,000 were killed and 4,700,000 were injured in their homes. The total cost of home accidents was \$600,000,000.

Southern Pine

With its plentiful forests of yellow pines, the South is developing an important new industry—the manufacture of newsprint. For years, it was believed that the pulp of yellow pine was useful only for making yellow or brown wrapping paper. But the late Dr. Charles H. Herty finally discovered a way to bleach the paper, making it white enough for newspaper requirements.

His product was too flimsy, however, and he went back to his laboratory for further experiments. The result was a paper which is stronger and more flawless. Now a \$6,000,000 plant in Texas is producing the newsprint, and several southern newspapers are using it. The mill says that its output until 1945 is already spoken for.

Besides opening up the prospects of new jobs for thousands of men in factories and forests, this development is important to publishers in this country. At present, newspapers in the United States get three-fourths of their newsprint—2,000,000 tons of it—from Canada, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. In time, a good deal of this supply may come from the South's 80 million acres of yellow pine.

Buna

Last year the United States consumed about 570,000 tons of rubber. The fact that this vast supply must be imported is a worry to manufacturers and the government, especially since world trade is now constantly threatened by wars. Without much success, American scientists have been trying for years to develop a synthetic rubber—a substitute which could be manufactured in this country from products which we possess in abundance.

Faced with the same problem of importing rubber, Germany developed a substance called buna, which is reported to be a good substitute. It was learned recently that the German scientists had had the cooperation of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey in the experiments. Now the oil company announces that it will produce buna in this country, and that a million-dollar plant will be in operation by the end of this year. It is claimed that automobile tires made from buna are in many ways superior to rubber tires; they last about 30 per cent longer. The chief materials which go into its manufacture are oil and air. It is estimated that it would cost between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000 to build enough buna plants to supply this nation's needs.

Patents

Thomas Jefferson was head of the first United States patent system. He was also secretary of state at the time, but with the assistance of two other cabinet members and

a clerk, he was not too busy to hear the inventors' claims and discuss their products. When a patent was granted, he and President George Washington signed the document. About 57 were granted in three years' time. That was 150 years ago.

Since that time, 2,200,000 patents have been granted—they are increasing now at the rate of 40,000 a year. Among them are basic inventions which resulted in the reaper, the telegraph, the cotton gin, the sewing machine, the air brake, the typewriter, the linotype, the electric lamp, the automobile, the radio, the airplane, and television. Today, the Patent Office employs over 1,300 people, and occupies over eight acres of floor space in the vast Department of Commerce building. Although its rules are more complex than the simple procedure which Thomas Jefferson followed, the Patent Office is as concerned as he was with the protection of inventors' rights and with providing an orderly method of encouraging science and industry to make further discoveries.

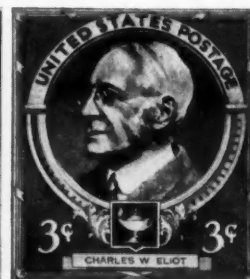
Famous Educators

The new series of postage stamps which honor "Famous Americans" includes five stamps, picturing famous educators. The se-

ON THE AMERICAN FRONT
BREPSLER EDITORIAL CARTOON

ries will be released within the next few weeks.

Horace Mann, who is honored with a one-cent stamp, is best known for his efforts to establish free public education in the United States. On the two-cent stamp is the picture of Mark Hopkins, former president of Williams College, who was widely known for his work with foreign missions, and his abilities in science, literature, and philosophy. Charles W. Eliot, who was president of Harvard for 40 years, is honored with the three-cent stamp. He was one of the foremost writers and speakers of his day on educational and social problems. Although Frances E. Willard was once dean of women at Northwestern University, she is remembered for her leadership in temperance and woman's suffrage movements. Her picture is on the five-cent stamp. Booker T. Washington, who appears on the 10-cent stamp, was the great Negro educator; he did much to lead his race, and helped to establish a number of schools for Negroes.



AMERICAN EDUCATORS ON STAMPS

These stamps, memorializing Americans prominent in the field of education, will be released shortly as part of the new "Famous Americans" series. Left to right: Horace Mann, Mark Hopkins, Charles W. Eliot, Frances E. Willard, and Booker T. Washington.

Time and Abroad

Doing, Saying, and Thinking

FOREIGN

Eyes Southeast

While Soviet troops seemed to be achieving small but costly successes in Finland last week, Europe's interest was shifting to the Near East, where a great deal of mysterious activity was arousing speculation. Without any explanations, Turkey suddenly expelled the German technical experts at work on her fortification and armament system. Some 30,000 troops from Australia and New Zealand arrived at the Suez Canal simultaneously with General Maxime Weygand, who commands France's army in Syria, and who is said to be slated for command of all the Allied forces in the Near East. These forces now amount to close to 500,000 troops, according to estimates, and their continued concentration has prompted observers to try to explain what, if anything, is brewing in that region.

Among the guesses which have been made so far, three in particular stand out—(1) The Allies fear a joint German-Russian drive on Turkey and Rumania, in the spring, and wish to be ready for it; (2) the Russians are

missar Pavlov, who has suggested that some of Russia's huge centralized industries should be broken up and replaced by small, locally owned establishments. The reintroduction of small businesses would, it is thought, encourage private initiative and thrift. It would tend to increase production of food, clothing, and small articles needed for individual use.

The I. R. A.

Ever since Irish Premier Eamon de Valera agreed to accept England's partition of Ireland into two separate political divisions (Eire and North Ireland), 18 years ago, relations between England and Eire have been strained by the existence of an armed group of militant Irishmen, called the Irish Republican Army (the I.R.A.), who have sworn to unite Eire and Protestant North Ireland at any cost. For some years after 1922 the I.R.A. was permitted to carry on its agitation quietly, but by 1936 its acts so embarrassed de Valera, who was then trying to negotiate another treaty with England, that he outlawed the I.R.A. and ordered it to disband. After this, the I.R.A. simply went underground, only to emerge in 1938 to launch a series of bombing outrages in England. Time bombs exploded in railway stations, power plants,



OFF TO A FLYING START
SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



MODERN DAMOCLES
JENSEN IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

massing for an attack on Iran and Afghanistan, with the idea of penetrating south to the Persian Gulf, and the Allies are preparing to block such an attack; (3) the Allies plan to attack Russia this spring from Turkey in order to relieve Russian pressure on Finland, and also in order to disrupt the flow of supplies from Russia to Germany by destroying Russia's Caspian oil wells and docks, and by bombing Russian railroads and concentration centers. It is very likely that more will be heard about this in the immediate future.

Return to N. E. P.?

In the year 1921 the three-year-old Communist regime in Russia found itself hard beset by a famine in southeastern Russia, food riots in the large cities, and a mutiny in the Baltic fleet. To head off a breakdown of the Communist experiment, Lenin and his associates permitted a relaxation of the rigid economic order. They reintroduced private ownership of certain properties, permitted some traders, small farmers, and even capitalists to creep back, run their own businesses, and make what profits they could. This was known at the time as the New Economic Policy (N.E.P.). It convinced some people that Russia was returning to capitalism, and caused a split in Communist party ranks. The N.E.P. lasted until 1925 when the Soviet government, considerably strengthened, brought it to a sudden and violent end.

Several officially inspired editorials in the Soviet press have recently hinted that the Soviet government is weighing the introduction of a new N.E.P. The most important of these was the work of Soviet Trade Com-

and factories. One exploded in Coventry, last August, killing five persons and injuring 50.

Two men alleged to have been members of the I.R.A., and adjudged to have been guilty of the Coventry bombing, were recently sentenced to death by British courts. Many people pleaded that their sentences be commuted. Among these was Premier de Valera who has staunchly opposed the activities of the I.R.A., but who warned that the hanging of these two men might inflame the Irish people. The British apparently were convinced that only stern punishment would stave off the danger of future bombings, and on Wednesday, February 7, the two men were hanged.

As we go to press, it appears that de Valera may have been correct. Many Irishers have hailed the two dead men as martyrs, there have been riots in Belfast, and relations between Eire and England have become tense. Some observers believe that de Valera will now be forced by Irish opinion to oppose the British, whether he wishes to do so or not.

Democracy in Costa Rica

Across the narrow neck of the Central American isthmus between Nicaragua and Panama lies a small, tropical region which so impressed the early Spanish conquerors with its wealth that they called it Costa Rica, or "rich coast." By modern standards Costa Rica probably no longer deserves its name. Its 616,000 people, most of whom are of direct Spanish descent, earn a modest living at best. Some raise coffee, cocoa, sugar cane, bananas, or rice, in the fertile lowlands along both



WIDE WORLD

PADEREWSKI RETURNS TO THE FIELD OF POLITICS

During the World War, the world-famous pianist, Ignace Jan Paderewski, played an important part in working for the liberation of Poland, becoming afterward premier of the resurrected nation. Now Paderewski is again laboring for the freedom of his people, as president of Poland's National Council—the parliament of the Polish government-in-exile. He is shown here with President Wladyslaw Ratzkiewicz (left), and Premier Wladyslaw Sikorski.

coasts. More people live in the central tableland, where the three chief cities and most of the best farms are located. In this upland the climate is cooler and drier, and a certain amount of mining is carried on.

Costa Rica is noted today for the fact that it has "more schools than soldiers," and also because Costa Ricans have experienced very little political blood-letting during the last 80 years, in sharp contrast to their neighbors in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. When a movement gained ground to "extend" by doubtful means the presidential term of President Leon Castro Cortez, a year ago, he denounced it in blunt terms, declaring that democracy must survive in Costa Rica.

Recently the Costa Ricans went to the polls and elected a new president, Dr. Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, who has promised to maintain the constitutional rule of his predecessor. In order to bring out the entire voting public, the government introduced two innovations at the polls: The voting, for the first time, was by secret ballot, and it was encouraged by fines levied on all qualified voters who failed to appear at the polls.

2,600 Years

Seventy million citizens of Japan bowed low toward the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, last Sunday, in celebration of the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of the existing dynasty. Although early Japanese history is extremely obscure—if not actually based on myth—Japanese historians hold that the existing dynasty was founded in 660 B.C. by Jimmu Tenno, a descendant five generations removed from the Sun Goddess. According to the calculations of Japanese historians, Emperor Hirohito is the 124th sovereign of a direct, unbroken line of Japanese emperors.

Japanese officials had hoped that the "China Incident" might be brought to a successful conclusion in time for the anniversary celebrations. But although there had been, it is true, striking Japanese military successes in the Canton region of southern China, the war appeared far from being over, last week. On the day before the anniversary celebrations,

the Japanese minister of finance estimated that by April 1, 1941, military and naval expenditures on the war in China will have reached the sum of four billion dollars. Japanese casualties in the war so far have been estimated officially as being 120,000 dead, and 360,000 wounded. Actually, the casualties on the Japanese side are probably higher. Chinese losses, as estimated by neutrals and by Japanese, have been placed at 3,600,000 dead (including civilians), and 4,800,000 wounded. At present there is no possible way of checking on the accuracy of these figures.

Palestine Problem

During the last few months the old quarrel between the 895,000 Moslems and 430,000 Jews of Palestine as to which race should dominate the Holy Land, has receded into the background in the face of a serious economic crisis which affects both sides. The crisis has been produced by the collapse of the very important citrus fruit industry, brought about by the war in Europe. With former markets in England, France, and northern Europe virtually shut off, Palestine is hard put to find any way of disposing of her annual citrus crop, which amounted to 14,500,000 boxes last year. Prices have fallen 50 per cent, and many of the fine orange groves of Palestine are falling into disuse.

While the collapse of Palestine's most important industry has affected Arabs and Jews alike, it has caused a rift in the ranks of the Jews. The Jewish farmers, who have suffered because of the fall in prices, want to employ Arab labor in their orchards because it is 33 per cent cheaper than Jewish labor and because, some say, the Arab is an excellent field laborer. The Palestine Jewish Labor Federation (the Histadruth) opposes this policy, pointing out that the employment of Arab labor, even at lower wages than those paid to Jewish labor, is bound to react unfavorably on the Jewish population in Palestine, because it will create unemployment. Some have suggested that a compromise could be reached by the employment of both Arab and Jewish labor in the Palestine orchards.



JAP. GOV'T. RWYS.

The Japanese, who recently celebrated the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of the nation's imperial dynasty, present a strange mixture of orient and occident.



WORKING THE LAND

(From a design for a mural by Allan Thomas, Crystal Falls, Michigan, Courtesy Section of Fine Arts, Public Buildings Administration.)

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

The Agricultural Revolution

A MERICAN agriculture has undergone a revolution in the last three-quarters of a century no less profound than that which has characterized the development of American industry. Those who have followed the changing pattern of agriculture in this country are aware of the nature of this transformation. It began in the period following the Civil War and has continued to the present. It is, to a certain extent, responsible for the so-called farm problem which is discussed at some length elsewhere



DAVID S. MUZZEY

in this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. In the early days of American history, agriculture was practiced on a relatively small scale. Farming was a way of life; a means of producing the food necessary to feed the family and a surplus sufficiently large to exchange for those products which could not be produced on the farm. The farm constituted an independent, self-sufficient economic unit. The needs which had to be met from the outside were few and easily satisfied.

The Pattern Changes

Following the Civil War, all this changed. The predominant pattern of the new agriculture was (a) an increase in the size of the individual farm, and (b) the nature of farm production. The Homestead Act of 1862 opened vast lands in the undeveloped West to agriculture. In the four decades from 1860 to 1900, the land devoted to agriculture increased from 407,000,000 acres to 841,000,000 acres. During that period the value of farm property increased from eight billion dollars to more than 20 billion dollars.

The second change was even more important. Farmers no longer produced merely the goods to feed and clothe their families. They produced goods for the markets of the world. They became commercial farmers, devoting their energy to the production of one or two crops which would find a ready market abroad as well as in the large industrial centers of the United States which grew by leaps and bounds during the post-Civil War era. This transformation brought certain advantages to the American farmer, but it also subjected him to new risks and uncertainties. He was no longer the self-sufficient economic unit of the pioneer days. His livelihood and security were determined by impersonal economic forces. The historians Hacker and Kendrick, in their "The United States Since 1865," summarize the effects of this change in the following words:

The American farmer produced blindly in a world market. He grew staples because

they were the cheapest thing to grow, and he grew them in competition with farmers, situated like himself, in Russia, India, Argentina, Australia, and Canada. Once having grown his wheat or barley or corn he waited for Liverpool, Chicago, and Minneapolis to tell him what his product was worth. If nature smiled on the wheat fields the world over, the American farmer was ruined. If war closed the Russian ports, drought parched the Argentine fields, and locusts devastated the Australian crops, he had money in his pockets and paid his mortgage interest and his wife had a new sewing machine. The American farmer could not hold his wheat or cotton against a rise in price, he could not combine with other farmers the world over for the artificial creation of a price, as did the sugar refiners, the steel manufacturers, and the railroads in his own country. He was a poor man and there were so many small farmers! During the eighties and the nineties, then, farm commodity prices tumbled and the farmer suffered cruelly while the results of his labor doubled and trebled and in some cases quadrupled the American production of foodstuffs and fibers.

Uncertain Prosperity

Despite the great expansion which took place, American agriculture was not generally prosperous during the post-Civil War period. The individual farmers went heavily into debt in order to buy the new implements which science had provided and to purchase new land. Throughout the seventies, eighties, and nineties, the farm debt mounted alarmingly. By 1900, nearly a third of all the farms were mortgaged; in some states nearly half of them were so burdened. Many a farmer had little left after paying his interest and taxes and other expenses. A good many of them were unable even to make ends meet.

During the latter part of the century, the farmers sought to improve their lot by political action. They blamed many of the woes upon the tariff, which enabled manufacturers to charge higher prices; upon the railroads for their high rates; upon the bankers for high interest rates. The Populist movement of the nineties was an outward manifestation of the farmers' dissatisfaction. This party advocated reforms which were designed to give the farmer a larger share of the national income. The Populists combined with the Democrats in 1896, under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan, in one of the bitterest political campaigns in American history. Here was a final struggle on the part of American agriculture to gain control of the government and inaugurate policies which would benefit it. The significance of this political movement has been aptly stated as follows by Hacker and Kendrick in their book:

Populism represented the last united stand of the country's agricultural interest; it was the final attempt made by the farmers of the land to beat back an industrial civilization whose forces had all but vanquished them already. The farmers of the West and South put forth their mightiest efforts—but they lost, and with the defeat of Populism went the submergence of the American agrarian order.

Personalities in the News

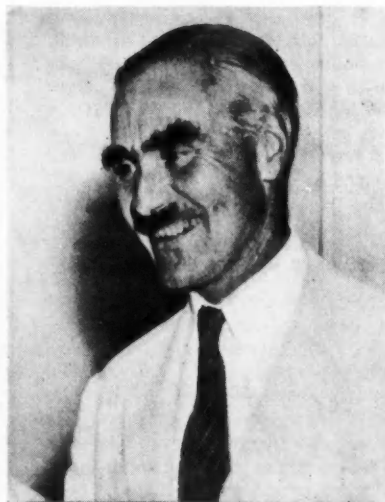
THERE was a time when United States embassies were distributed among the more generous contributors to the campaign funds of victorious presidents. Today the practice exists but in a greatly modified form. More than ever American lives and interests, American neutrality itself, are at stake in the world's trouble centers, and for these posts presidents from both parties draw on the State Department's corps of trained diplomatists, men like **Joseph Clark Grew**, who was sent to Japan by Herbert Hoover and ordered to stay there by Franklin Roosevelt.

Grew entered his country's service by a somewhat devious route. Two years ahead of Mr. Roosevelt, both at Groton and Harvard, Grew was graduated from college in 1902 and embarked on two years of big-game hunting in southern Asia. Recovering from malaria in some out-of-the-way town, he was impressed by the solicitude of a United States consul and resolved to enter the diplomatic service. He began in 1904 as a clerk in the consulate at Cairo, Egypt, but Theodore Roosevelt learned of his exploits with wild tigers (so the story goes) and marked him for advancement. However that may be, within a year "Tiger" Grew was deputy consul-general in Cairo, and in rapid succession he was sent to Mexico City, St. Petersburg (Leningrad), Berlin, Vienna, back to Berlin, and in the spring of 1917 back again to Vienna, where he was *chargé d'affaires* when the United States broke off relations with the dual monarchy.

Even then, nearly a quarter of a century ago, Grew was one of the State Department's most brilliant "career men." War brought him back to Washington in an advisory capacity and the armistice sent him to Paris as secretary-general of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace. He was later made envoy successively to Denmark, Switzerland, and Turkey, and returned in 1924 to serve briefly as under-secretary of state. Mr. Coolidge sent him back to Turkey in 1927 and in 1932 Mr. Hoover sent him to Japan.

The ambassador, now 59 years old, is a distinguished figure, gray-haired but erect. Tropical fever left him deaf in one ear, but his colleagues maintain that he hears more than he lets on. This is a sly compliment to Mr. Grew's diplomacy, which is suave and imperturbable.

Yet Mr. Grew is never meek or reticent in expressing this country's position. Returning to Tokyo after three months' vacation in the United States, he addressed the America-Japan Society on October 19. He reaffirmed the American policy of international good faith and reported American indignation at Japanese destruction of American property, Japanese efforts to restrict American trade in the Orient, and other injurious acts which he termed "wholly needless." His audience listened, startled and distressed, but not resentful. They believed the ambassador when he said it was his "desire to work with all my mind, with all my heart, and with all my strength for Japanese-American friendship."



JOSEPH C. GREW

ABOUT a month ago, Emperor Hirohito turned for the first time since 1934 to the Japanese navy in search of a new premier for Japan. His choice fell upon the 60-year-old former naval minister, **Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai**, who is considered in Japan to be an unusually competent officer. Some American commentators have regarded his appointment as a sign of good will toward the United States since, they say, Yonai is favorably disposed toward this country. Whether that is true or not (some think not), it is a fact that he has traveled more widely and obtained a broader perspective of international affairs than have most of the Japanese army officers who have preceded him as premier.

Yonai was born in 1880 in northeastern Japan, a region from which have come a number of distinguished naval officers. His family was aristocratic, but somewhat burdened with debts. After completing his courses in a local school, Yonai attended a Japanese naval academy where he failed to distinguish himself, ranking well down the lists at graduation. His early record as a junior naval officer was also without distinction. It was not until the great Japanese naval victory over the Russian fleet at Tsushima Straits, in 1905, that he seemed suddenly to come to life. After that battle, from which (as he later admitted) he emerged a changed man, he devoted himself to the study and practice of naval gunnery with such intensity that he almost lost the use of his left ear.

Yonai's travels abroad began when he was sent to England on a warship in 1911. During the World War he served as naval attaché to the Japanese embassy in Russia, and later, during the Russian civil war, he fought with the Japanese expeditionary



MITSUMASA YONAI

force in Siberia. In order further to extend his knowledge of foreign lands, Yonai studied the German language, and even went so far as to apply himself to the task of translating a German book—a task he abandoned before he had finished it, however. Even when he had become an admiral, and then commander of the fleet, Yonai continued to rise in rank and prestige. Three years ago he became minister of navy, with a seat in the cabinet, and today he holds the highest political position that Japan can offer—next to the Emperor.

The new premier of Japan is probably most at home on the deck of a warship, dressed in his severe, unadorned blue uniform, with white gloves, and with a pair of good binoculars slung from his neck. He is somewhat tall for a Japanese, and cuts an imposing figure among his fellow officers and cabinet members. Two bright, alert eyes, set far apart, and a mouth slightly turned up at one corner, combine to give his features a somewhat sardonic expression. Yonai is the father of two sons and three daughters. The admiral first obtained wide publicity in the United States last year at this time when he told the Japanese Diet, "I feel extremely sorry for America when I hear she is planning to fortify Guam."



HELPING HIMSELF

NYA PHOTO

Illinois Students Display Initiative In "Job-Creation Contest" of NYA

HIGH school students who are pessimistic about the chances of finding jobs during the summer vacation, or after they graduate, should take heart from the example set in Illinois last summer by 5,000 young people. All under the age of 25, they were competing for the scholarships, jobs, clothing, and goods which were being offered as prizes in a statewide "job-creation contest," sponsored by the National Youth Administration. It is not known if such a contest will be held in any states this year, but this does not prevent thousands of youths all over the country from "thinking their way to a job," just as these young people of Illinois did.

Typical of the Illinois contestants was 19-year-old Marvin Treiber, who noticed the difficulty his mother had in keeping her silverware clean. It occurred to him that other people must be having the same trouble, and so he opened a silverware laundry, collecting silver from households and restaurants and polishing it overnight on a burnishing machine which he bought on the installment plan. The idea paid for the machine and left a nice profit.

Gene Tyhurst of Robinson, Illinois, won one of the prizes by creating an even more humble job. He went from house to house shining shoes. Businessmen, who were too busy in the daytime to stop at shoeshine parlors, would let him clean their shoes and would often find several pairs in the closet that needed brushing up.

First prize in the state contest went to a girl who had seen a need and filled it. She was Myrtis Pauline Rose of Maunie, who, for a fee of one dollar, would track down a birth record and secure a legal birth certificate. This document, she had noticed, was essential when applying for insurance, passport, or old-age relief, yet many persons did not have their certificates.

Some youths showed genuine business ability. For example, a number of boys in a Chicago high school rented a vacant lot and for a two-cent fee checked their schoolmates' bicycles. Now they handle as many as 1,000 bicycles a day.

Richard and Buster Welliver of Rockford, Illinois, had made some money running errands, and saw the possibility of expanding this business. They called themselves the Shoppers' Service and passed out mimeographed advertisements. Soon 10 boys on bicycles were doing the errands, while the Welliver brothers stayed home taking the orders—and the profits. The boys they hired kept half of the 10-cent charge for each errand and made from \$4 to \$7 a week, while Richard and Buster seldom made less than \$25 apiece.

A business-minded college boy in Chicago set up a campus travel agency and arranged vacation trips for undergraduates and excursions for teams and musical societies. This not only brought him a good income but a job with a travel company

when he was graduated from college.

Other students discovered ways to turn their hobbies to profit. A young biologist named Mitro Pellock won a prize when he succeeded in selling to high school laboratories the frogs, crayfish, and earthworms which he caught and preserved for fun. The total expense of preparing his first batch was \$6.50 and yet two schools were glad to pay him \$26 for the specimens. That was considerably less than what they had been paying a commercial supply house.

A high school girl was studying home economics and thought up the profitable pastime of preparing appetizing meals for invalids. And a youngster who was good with tools began making window boxes, painting them, filling them with soil, and selling them to neighbors. He sold them for 85 cents apiece and was still able to make a profit.

Physical handicaps are not necessarily obstacles to job-creating. One of the pluckiest of the boys who qualified to enter the contest was a former golf course caddy who had been struck on the head by a golf ball and blinded. Instead of losing heart, he thought back over his hobbies and found that he could go on with leather work despite his handicap. Today he is making tooled leather belts and suspenders and selling them at a profit.

An aspect of job-creating which the NYA especially encouraged was inventing, since a new and useful device will not only benefit its inventor but will give work to those later employed in manufacturing and selling it. One need not be an elderly college professor in order to perfect an invention that will give work to hundreds of people and raise living standards generally.

One young inventor, who won third prize in the contest, was William Harris of Urbana. Whimsically known as the "Kant Warp Tee Square," Harris' improvement on the old form of T-square has a blade of transparent plastic recessed into a head of black walnut. The invention brought Harris \$92 in the first two months it was on the market, and the dean of the University of Illinois has promised that, if it is all that Harris says it is, he will make it standard equipment.

The man responsible for the job-creation contest was William J. Campbell, who was state administrator of the NYA in Illinois until he was elected district attorney of Chicago last fall. Mr. Campbell gives this advice to young people who cannot find jobs and want to make them:

"Study your neighborhood, the people who live there, and how they live. Note the gadgets or services that would add to the safety and comfort, or beauty of homes, stores, and streets. Outline your ideas; improve them through study. Then experiment with them. Thus you can think your way to a job. You'll be the boss, and nobody can fire you."

• Vocational Outlook •

The Ministry

THE desire to make money should not be among a young man's motives when he considers the ministry; yet at the same time it will do no harm for him to acquaint himself with conditions and trends in this profession. Ministers in this country today are in much the same position as teachers. They are supported locally by their parishes, just as local school districts are taxed to support the schools, and the remarks already made in this column regarding teachers hold true with respect to the ministry. The most highly paid clergymen are those in the large cities, with many in rural areas underpaid. Again, in less prosperous geographic areas, such as the South, congregations are able to contribute less. Yet the sincere minister will not be unduly influenced by the gain to be won in the cities, and will remember that there is as much need for him in parishes that can afford to pay very little.

There is a trend, however, on the part of the clergy as on the part of educators, toward the consolidation of small, poorly financed units. The widespread use of the automobile and bus makes it possible for parishioners to go a little farther to a larger church, where the clergyman is a man of greater ability than any of the small units could have afforded.

There are 211,000 churches in the country today and only slightly more than that number of clergymen. After a three-year survey, Dr. Mark A. May wrote in "Education of American Ministers" (1934) that there were "at least 85,000 feeble churches which are unable to support the full-time services of either a trained or untrained minister." As consolidation takes place, many untrained ministers will be deprived of their jobs, but there will still be a demand, at higher salaries, for young, well-trained clergymen.

The education of a minister is long, but it is less of a financial burden than other educations of equal length. The would-be minister today must graduate from college and spend from three to four years in a theological seminary, depending on his denomination and his intelligence. During the time that he is in a recognized college, he is still a layman and must pay his own expenses. He is free to study whatever he pleases, although a knowledge of history, philosophy, the classics, and possibly psychology and public speaking will stand him in good stead. On entering the seminary, however, he is welcomed into the church and relieved of many expenses.

Ordained clergymen, although they receive more than their untrained colleagues, are nevertheless very poorly paid. Despite their graduate study, they receive on the average about \$2,000 a year. Many per-

sons without even a college degree make more than this, and in industry persons with equivalent education make three times as much. This is of course an average. In one comparatively wealthy denomination, the average is \$3,000, and in others few ministers even attain the first figure cited.

A minister is expected on his small salary to live an elevated and useful life. He must have access to many books and periodicals in preparing his sermons, and he must travel about visiting his parish-



THE MINISTER

ioners, a duty which may require him in a rural district to keep an automobile. And despite his low income, people are constantly turning to him for charity and contributions of various kinds. He has many other duties, and is expected to be on call 11 or 12 hours a day.

There are compensating factors, however. Often the minister's home is given him rent-free, and he is periodically showered with gifts from his congregation. He also makes a modest sum from performing marriages and other rites for which a fee is charged. And he has comparative security, since clergymen are rarely discharged and forced to hunt a new job only when a church is closed for lack of funds or because of consolidation. Nor is middle-age dreaded by ministers, as it is by many professional people, for a career in the clergy may last until the age of 65 or even 70, and often retired ministers are given pensions.

A clergyman also must derive satisfaction from his standing in the community. He may teach, rather than preach—almost 10 per cent of all ordained ministers are in education work—but if he is in the clergy, whether as "Father," or "Reverend" or "Rabbi," the public knows that he has preferred aiding others to storing up treasure, and he is universally respected.

Do You Keep Up With the News?

(For answers to the following questions, turn to page 8, column 4)

1. The following four Americans who died prior to 1916 but after 1909, have been nominated for New York University's Hall of Fame: (a) Joseph Pulitzer, (b) Wilbur Wright, (c) Booker T. Washington, (d) Clara Barton. Identify each.

2. Where will the Democratic National Convention be held this year?



3. Former Governor _____ of Pennsylvania was recently appointed minister to Bulgaria.

4. What and where is Greenbelt?

5. What is the present capital of China?

6. The English have decided they will not have to ration meat. True or false?

7. How many United States senators will come up for election this fall?

8. Of what allegedly un-American organization is William Dudley Pelley the head?

9. Two men recently executed in England are now regarded as "martyrs" by whom?

10. The cost of insuring vessels bound for South America has risen. True or false?

11. What is the title of Walt Disney's latest full-length animated cartoon?

12. The National Labor Relations Board recently forced what great automobile company to change its policies, although not without protest that its freedom of speech was violated?

13. The Haiphong-Kunming railroad, in southwestern China, is operated by nationals of what Occidental power?

14. The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has extended its activities to include what commodity, not a food?

15. How is the date of Easter fixed?

16. The Japanese government is contemplating the abrogation of what treaty?

17. Canada still has a free press. True or false?

18. Where is the Punta Boriquen air base which the army has constructed in the last six months?

19. Describing itself as "not neutral, only non-belligerent," the government of _____ recently seized much German property within its territory and encouraged German businessmen to return to Germany.

20. On February 8, the Chinese celebrated (a) New Year's Day, (b) Independence Day, (c) Confucius' birthday, (d) the anniversary of General Chiang's inauguration.

Farm Problems Remain Serious

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

Then came the return to normal conditions. Agricultural production was resumed in the nations which had been at war, thus reducing the foreign market for farm goods. More than that, other nations, such as Argentina, Australia, Canada, Russia, and Egypt, began competing more effectively with the American farmer. Almost overnight, the American farmer discovered that he was producing more than he could sell. Surpluses piled up. Prices bogged down. Agriculture sank into a period of depression from which it has not yet emerged. Something had to be done for them, the farmers said, and Congress began dealing with the farm problem.

Year after year, bills were introduced in Congress to help the farmers. Plans designed to pay the farmers for their loss of foreign markets were incorporated into bills by Congress and passed, only to be vetoed by President Coolidge. The special remedy of the Hoover administration was the creation of the Farm Board, which bought up surpluses of wheat and cotton in the hope of preventing further price declines. But prices continued to decline and when the collapse of 1929 came, the farmer seemed hopelessly lost in permanent depression.

The Roosevelt Program

The Roosevelt administration was committed to "do something for the farmers." It worked out a farm program and put it into operation. During the last seven years, several methods have been used to deal with the farm problem. All have had as their basic objective the reduction of surpluses by means of curtailing production. The theory has been that the basic cause of the farmer's ills is overproduction and that, therefore, some way must be found to limit production. Under the first scheme, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which was later declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, the federal government entered into contracts with individual farmers. In return for reducing their acreage of wheat, cotton, corn, and certain other crops, farmers were paid by the government. This was supposed to help the farmers in two ways: First, it would reduce the surplus and cause prices to increase automatically. Second, it would add to the farmers' income by directly placing money in their hands.

Whether as a result of this program or not, the lot of the farmers did improve. Wheat rose from 30 cents a bushel to a dollar. The price of cotton more than doubled. The total farm income rose 55 per cent between 1933 and 1936, from five billion dollars to eight billion.

When the Supreme Court declared the AAA unconstitutional, Congress devised other means of accomplishing the same purpose. It passed the Soil Conservation Act, which also provided for the payment of subsidies to the farmers. Producers, of wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco were given a payment for taking part of their land out of the cultivation of these crops and turning it over to crops which have soil-conserving qualities.

But this is only part of the present program. Loans are made to farmers who will store part of their crop during good years, when they produce more than they can sell. When they produce little, they can draw upon the stored produce, sell it, and repay the loan. This is known as the "ever-normal" granary plan of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

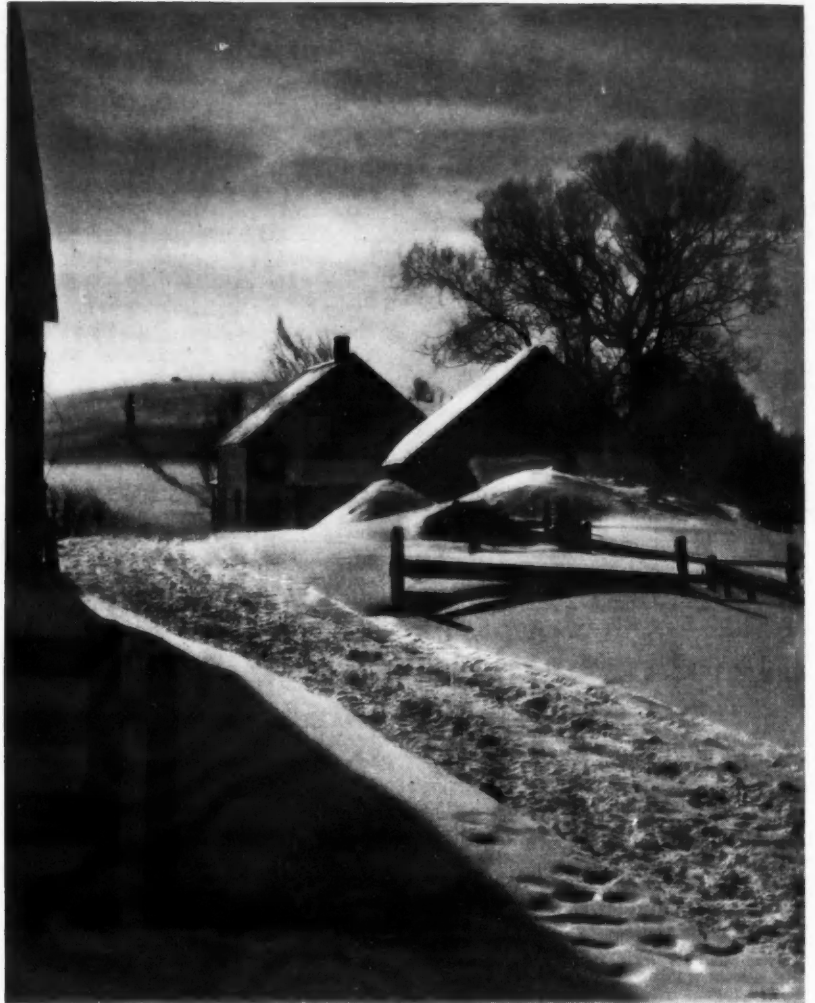
No Solution Found

In other ways, the government has acted to help the farmers. It buys up the surplus of such products as apples, butter, cabbages, oranges, and sweet potatoes when too much is produced—and gives the surplus to people on relief. It has made loans to farmers who are in danger of losing their land, and to tenant farmers who wish to buy farms of their own. It has bought up land which is very poor and is turning it back to grass or trees. In a dozen different ways, it is endeavoring to put American agriculture on a sound basis.

That the farmer is better off today than he was seven years ago is easily proved by the statistics of income. From the low point of the depression, his income has nearly doubled (if benefit payments by the government are included). To what extent, if any, this improvement may be attributed to the program of the federal government will long remain a matter of serious dispute. In fact, few features of the Roosevelt program have raised more bitter controversy than the farm program.

However that may be, the farm problem has not yet found a solution, for the old bogey of surpluses still affects the American farmer. The opportunities of finding markets abroad have diminished. Whereas in former times the American farmer supplied nearly two-thirds of the world's cotton exports, today his share is but 40 per cent.

In many of the staple farm products, notably wheat and cotton, there is a world surplus overhanging the market. The wheat surplus is estimated at twice the size of the normal American production. The present world supply of unsold cotton is practically as large. Thus the American farmer is deeply affected by conditions prevailing outside the borders of his own country—conditions over which he or his government has no control. Critics of the Roosevelt administration charge that the government's price-fixing policies have had much to do with losing the export market for the American farmer.



WINTER QUIET

GUSTAV ANDERSON

Meanwhile, the position of the farmer in the national economy has declined in importance. Decade after decade, the onward march of industrialism has pushed the farmer into an inferior position. Although there are still 32,000,000 Americans who live on farms—nearly seven million families—they constitute but a fourth of the total population; in former times, they were in a preponderant majority. The changing status of the farmer is aptly summarized in the current issue of *Fortune*:

The farm population has fallen from more than 33 per cent of the total population in 1910 to less than 25 per cent today. The farmer's share in the national income has declined even more rapidly than his share of the population—from 25 per cent in 1910 to 22 per cent in 1920, to a mere 15 per cent today. His purchasing power relative to the city dweller's, therefore, has shrunk drastically. The value of his land is less than half of its war-boom peak and 15 per cent below the level of 1913. In some areas the wind has blown away his precious topsoil; his cattle died of thirst; his home was nearly buried in dust. Even where there have been no sandstorms or serious drought, soil erosion and soil exhaustion have badly damaged the land. Since 1930 about 27 per cent of all farms have been subject to foreclosure and forced sale. During the last 20 years farm tenancy has increased by 18 per cent; and thousands have been cast out to wander across the country from crop to crop, from state to state, unwanted, almost hopeless.

Is the Farmer Doomed?

Is there no way these conditions can be remedied and the farmer restored to a position of relative prosperity? Is the American farmer doomed to further decline? These questions cannot be answered with certainty, for the answer depends upon many unknown and unpredictable factors. There are no indications that the American farmer will be able to recapture his foreign markets during the next few years. The trend has been in the opposite direction.

If the American farmer cannot sell his surplus abroad, is there no possibility that the domestic market may be expanded? It is undoubtedly true that there is overproduction in certain commodities; that is, that more of certain products are being raised than the American people have need of. But it is also true that one reason for the surplus of farm goods is the inability of the American people to buy all the goods they need. The American people need more clothing and other goods produced from cotton. They could eat more food-

stuffs. With their limited incomes, however, they are unable to purchase larger quantities of these farm products.

It is recognized on all hands that to a certain extent the farm problem is closely allied to the general economic problems of the United States. A return of general prosperity, with an increase of purchasing power among the millions who could use more farm products, would go a long way toward solving the farm problem.

There is admittedly no easy solution to the farm problem. If a solution is ever to be found, it will be in a combination of long-range and immediate programs which recognize the true nature of the problem. It will also depend upon the ability of the nation as a whole to solve its central economic problem of providing stability and prosperity for all classes of the population.

Questions and References

1. How many people in the United States live on farms?
2. What effect did the World War have upon the American farmer?
3. How is the fate of the American farmer tied to conditions in the markets of the world?
4. What steps has the Roosevelt administration taken to solve the farm problem?
5. Do you believe that these measures have attacked the problem from its foundations?

REFERENCES: (a) Farmer and the New Deal, by O. P. White. *American Mercury*, November 1939, pp. 314-323. (b) Future of the American Farm, by H. A. Wallace. *The New Republic*, November 8, 1939, pp. 48-52. (c) Rainbow Over the Farm, by R. Burlingame. *Harpers*, December 1939, pp. 50-59. (d) How Big Should the Farm Be? by W. G. Roylance. *The New Republic*, November 22, 1939, pp. 137-139. (e) Industrial Revolution Hits the Farmer, by P. F. Drucker. *Harpers*, November 1939, pp. 592-601.

Answer Keys

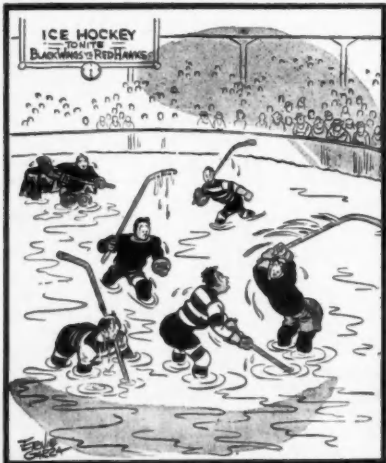
Do You Keep Up With the News?

1. (a) newspaper publisher, (b) co-inventor of the airplane, (c) Negro educator, (d) nurse, founder of American Red Cross; 2. Chicago, Illinois; 3. George H. Earle; 4. government-owned housing unit for government employees, cooperatively run, in Maryland, just outside Washington; 5. Chungking; 6. false; 7. 32; 8. the Silvershirts; 9. Irish malcontents; 10. false; 11. "Pinocchio"; 12. the Ford Motor Company; 13. France; 14. cotton; 15. It is the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 23; 16. the Nine-Power Treaty; 17. false; 18. Puerto Rico; 19. Turkey; 20. (a).

Smiles

"Will this tonic really grow hair?" asked the bald-headed man.

"Yes, sir," replied the drug clerk, "it's the real thing. Last week I upset a bottle of it on some grapefruit and the next day I sold them all for coconuts." —BREEZE



"DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KINDA STUFFY IN HERE?" GARZA IN COLLIER'S

Young Man (entering barbershop): "I'd like to have my moustache dyed."

Barber: "Certainly. Did you bring it with you?" —ANSWERS

"Getting along with the girls," said the sophomore, "is like making pie. All you need is a lot of crust and some applesauce." —SELECTED

"Now, Billy, what will you say at the party when you've had enough to eat?" "Good-bye." —NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY MAGAZINE

The driver of an automobile, who was unaccustomed to city traffic, attempted to turn his car around in the middle of the block and was sideswiped and upset by a hook-and-ladder fire truck.

Striding over to the upset car, a traffic cop poked his head through the window and growled, "You'll get 10 years for this!" "You let him alone!" shrieked the driver's wife. "How did we know those wild-driving painters were going to run into us?" —SELECTED

Mother: "Well, son, what have you been doing all afternoon?"

Son: "Shootin' craps."

Mother: "That must stop. Those little things have as much right to live as you have." —WALL STREET JOURNAL